Revision of drug prices

744. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether domestic Pharma industry has sought revision in drug prices by submitting a report on the increase in conversion and packaging cost to Indian drug price regulator, National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority;

(b) if so, whether the drug regulator annually fixes maximum retail price of medicines that contain any one of 74 raw materials that are under price control of Government;

(c) if so, whether Indian Drug Pharmaceutical Association have been asked to submit a report and they expected Government to implement new pricing decision by July itself; and

(d) if so, whether any final decision in this regard has been taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) No Sir. However, individual companies have submitted replies / data in response to a questionnaire issued by National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) in connection with annual exercise of revision conversion cost (CC), packaging cost (PC), cost of packing material (PM) and process loss (PL) norms.

(b) Annual revision of CC, PC, PM and PL norms is only carried out. Price revision in respect of maximum retail price of medicines that contain any one of the 74 scheduled bulk drugs under DPCO, 1995 is not carried out on an annual basis.

(c) and (d) Indian Drug Pharmaceutical Association have not been asked to submit any report and also no report has been received.

Savings of fertilizers subsidy

745. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
MS. MABEL REBELLO:
Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reliance Industry Limited (RIL) has signed a Gas Sale and Purchase Agreement (GSPA) with 12 urea manufacturers in a move that may result in annual fertilizer subsidy saving of Rs.3,000 crore for the Centre;

(b) whether GSPA involved supply of 15 million standard cubic metres per day annual gas from its Krishna-Godawari basin D6 block to 15 urea units across the country; and

(c) to what extent it has helped in reducing fertilizer subsidy where Government has urged upon RIL to supply more gas with all the fertilizer companies so that fertilizer subsidy becomes nil?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) Yes, Reliance Industries Limited has entered into a Gas Sale and Purchase Agreement (GSPA) with 19 urea manufacturing units (12 manufacturers) for supply of 14.84 MMSCMD of natural gas from KG D6 basin. This additional gas is being utilized to replace the costly fuel / feed stock namely naphtha being used earlier in absence of availability of natural gas.